SAFE DRIVING IDEA

Dear Mr and Mrs. “Marine’s Parents”

- Initiated by CO, MCSFCO, Kings Bay, GA.
- Genius in it’s simplicity
- Effective in it’s application(no major mishaps since implementation)
- Brilliant in establishing an unbroken “safety network.”

SAFE DRIVING IDEA

How The Program Works

- Letter from C.O. is written to parents detailing:
  - Marine Corps initiatives to combat PMV mishaps – leave start time
  - Providing current statistics - #’s killed in last 6/9 months
  - How the unit appreciates and values their (Parents) Marine

SAFE DRIVING IDEA

The Response

- Extremely favorable
- Sample quotes from Parent's letters – typical of all received
  - "Thank you for the complement of our son…We are very proud of what you and your command are doing."
  - "Thank you for taking a leadership role in keeping our young Marines safe."

CASE STUDY ON INTERVENTION

The Role of Leadership

- Leaders can keep “bad” drivers off of the road
  - MCO 5110.1C – “base commander can suspend/revoke on-base driving privileges.”
  - It further states that there is no limitation on the basis for suspension
  - The “points” system is not meant as a substitute for punitive action Commander retains prerogative to deny driving privileges.

CASE STUDY ON INTERVENTION

Cpl Gonzalez

- On 01 September 2004, Corporal Mario Gonzalez JR was driving south on I-5 at 1245 with his pregnant girlfriend in his red 1991 Honda CRX. The Marine is believed to have been racing another vehicle in excess of 100 mph.
- SNM lost control when swerving around another vehicle and slammed into cement divider killing himself and his passenger.
- SNM was on terminal leave at the time

CASE STUDY ON INTERVENTION

Cpl Gonzalez – The Rest of the Story

- Corporal Gonzalez had a history of driving carelessly
- Previous traffic offenses:
  - Stopped 12 July 2003 for speeding. Failed to appear for this violation and had a warrant for his arrest. Resolved in March 04.
  - Stopped 5 Feb 2004, for equipment violations.
  - CHP stopped SNM because vehicle was modified for high speeds.